

the Contractor's State License board intervened, says Christensen.

Lloyd Martens, Chadron, Neb.: He reports that yearling steers and spayed heifers implanted in May with Ralgro beef implants "bulled like crazy all summer. Our vet talked to a doctor with the company in Terra Haute, Ind. Got no answers. 'Never had any complaints before' was all he would say. No followup by the company at all. Implanted 335 yearlings and had as many as 50 head bulging a day. Implants were made according to company specs".

Gilbert Livingood, Postville, Iowa: "If it wasn't for the good service from the local dealer, we would have traded long ago," he reports in citing problems he had initially with a Chevrolet Scottsdale 20 3/4 ton pickup. "It's still under warranty. We have had repair work done on the lights, brakes, fan, power steering, and air conditioning belt and pulley. The largest problem was with the motor missing. After about 10 trips for new plugs, points, distributor, wiring harness, etc., a Chevrolet company man put insulation between the carburetor and distributor and solved that problem. My son has a pickup just like it and has had no problems."

Gilbert notes that his "best buy" is a Deere 6600 Side Hill combine! "It increased our picking capacity at least 100% over the old 6600 on our terraced land. It could use more horsepower, however, especially when it's muddy."

Patrick Henry, Harmon, Ill.: He gives the dealer a pat on the back for prompt handling of a few minor problems with his "best buy" — an International 1586 diesel. "The tractor performed well with only minor problems. I like the quietness of the cab and the ease of handling. The shifting of gears could be improved upon — it shifts into low range with difficulty at times."

Patrick blames "an unbalanced fan blade" for triggering problems he's had with "a pto 38 in. Middle State bin dryer LP!" "It heated the corn uneven in the bin. As a result, it burnt the first batch and they have never gotten it to heat even. The vibration has fouled up the controls so that the burner won't turn on. The dealer has tried to get it to work for me but the company keeps putting us off in trying to straighten it out."

John Farrell, Scottsville, N.Y.: He had two flat tires on his new Deere 7000 corn planter last spring after planting only 8 acres of corn. "Rocks were getting in between the planting unit gauge wheels and the planter tires, ripping the valve stems out," he told FARM SHOW. "The next day when I went to my dealer to have the tires fixed, there were two factory men there to talk to. Of course, they had never heard of the problem before. I tried \$76.00 worth of dirt shields on the planter. After that the planter worked perfectly with no problems at all."

Thanks to a concerned dealer who ended up making a missing part himself, Keith Oldewurtel, Slayton, Minn., had his new grain bins ready

for harvest last fall: "I ordered 3 big MFS hopper-bottom bins in June, which they considered an early order. Everything came through early enough, except some braces that had to be on as soon as the bins went up. Every time the dealer would call the factory for the braces, they would tell him that they would definitely be shipped next week. The dealer finally had to make the braces himself in order to get the bins up in late October."

New products they first read about in FARM SHOW were "best buy" nominations from several readers participating in this issue's buying survey.

Combine header adapter kit: "The Bish adapter made the hookup very easy," reports Ray Berlekamp, Green Springs, Ohio, who purchased the kit which was featured in FARM SHOW a year ago. Invented and manufactured by Harvey Bish, Giltner, Neb., it adapts Deere's popular bean headers to other makes of combines. Ray used it to adapt a Deere 453 row-crop bean head to his 815 IH combine. "It did a very good job cutting the beans low and picking up lodged beans. There was very little shatter loss and I could go both directions on lodged beans," he reports. Ray adds that he had to do some redesigning to correct problems he experienced with a Lilliston Tillager: "It was supposed to work in corn stalks but failed to do a satisfactory job. There was a constant plugging problem, making a mess of the fields. The tool was misrepresented to me and improperly set up, leaving some redesigning to be done in the field."

Lubbock vibrating plow: First featured in FARM SHOW a year ago, this new tillage tool from Lubbock Manufacturing, Lubbock, Texas, was a "best buy" nomination from Alexander MacArthur, owner of Strathmore Farms, Algonquin, Ill. "These people did some deep research before coming out with a new tillage tool. It will do everything they say it will and looks like it's built to last — a rare thing these days."

Two Nebraska readers nominated

"It will do everything they say it will; built to last."

the Sub-Mulcher from BC Manufacturing, Beaver Crossing, Neb., as their "best buy". "I used my Sub-Mulcher last year on my pivot sprinkler irrigated corn ground when the corn was 12 to 14 in. tall," reports Charles Timm, of Big Springs. He read about the new kind of deep tillage in our May-June issue last year. "It mulches the ground without disturbing either the top or subsoil. This causes the soil to absorb water and improves the crop's root system by breaking open the hardpan. We had a

substantial increase in yield. This is also a good machine for use on summer fallow dryland," says Timm. He adds that "we bought a 1977 9000 Ford truck which is a good truck but the warranty service could be improved."

Also "sold" on the Sub-Mulcher is Nebraskan Terry Barth, of Friend. "It does a good job of fracturing the ground, yet leaves it undisturbed on top. Works real good going down the row after the crop is up. It lets roots and water penetrate."

Ralph also nominates two other "best buys". He's well pleased with the automatic shutoff on his fuel storage tank which, he says, "works like those on the gas pumps in town. Lets you grease and check equipment while filling with fuel and the tank never runs over." He also notes that his "International rolling cultivator wouldn't work at all. Used it half a day and traded for a Lilliston rolling cultivator which works just wonderful."

Several readers who are well pleased with their "best buy" purchases offered suggestions on how the manufacturer could make them even better.

Larry Ruebush, Good Hope, Ill.: He says his Case 1816 Skid Steer loader is "one of the handiest things around my farm. It's small enough to get into very tight quarters to work and seems to be built heavy enough to stand up. I used it over 250 hours a year and have not had any welds break and have not bent or broke any iron."

He adds that the loader's engine "leaves a lot to be desired. I'd like to see a small air cooled diesel engine, like a small Deutz, put in the 1816. Most air-cooled, one-cylinder gas engines just aren't built for long, heavy use," says Larry who emphasizes that "the good points of the 1816 far outweigh my problems with it. I would be lost without it."

Larry also passed along this buying tip: "I use Dupont's Imron paint when I repaint trucks and equipment and it stays bright-looking even when it's dirty. It's a polyurethane enamel and stands up to stains and scratches very well."

Ellis Adee, Minneapolis, Kan.: He's well pleased with two "best buy" nominations — a 24 ft. 1407 Krause tandem disk and a 21 ft. Sunflower folding chisel plow. He adds that a 7080 Allis Chalmers tractor, which he traded off after less than 1000 hours of use for "an ugly, plain simple 900 Versatile", did everything he expected of it powerwise. "The dealer and shop service were excellent. The parts department manager would break his neck to keep me happy. Very little downtime. The problems I had were minor, such as overload clutch slipping (covered by warranty) and hydraulic lines and valves leaking (factory's fault). The most scary thing was the factory's failure to torque the bolts holding the differential ring gear to the carrier, resulting in bolts next to untorqued bolts breaking off like a row of dominos until all were gone. The hydraulic controls, cables, etc. were

an insult. Either they wouldn't stay in place or you couldn't get them out when you wanted to move the cylinder less than full stroke. My conclusion: If manufacturers can't keep their quality under control, they had better build tractors simpler and stop letting the sales department do the engineering. At \$35,000 list, we expect them to work after they are out of warranty."

Ivan Zimmer, Stratford, Mont.: He notes that his 1977 half ton Chevrolet, a custom 10 stick shift with 6 cylinder engine, "makes just a shade over 13 mpg on a clear day. I bought it to be patriotic and conserve fuel, but it's so loaded with ecology gizmos it chokes itself down to second gear on an average hill. My old '72 Chev 4 WD makes 14½ mpg with a big load of hay in a foot of snow." On the plus side, Ivan notes that the new truck "rides and steers good and dealer service is above average."

Andrew Machiela, Zeeland, Mich.

"It's so loaded with ecology gizmos it chokes down to second gear."

He cites Monsanto's new Roundup herbicide as one of his "best buys". "We have a quackgrass problem on black marshy ground that you wouldn't believe. We had tried everything and nothing even came close to controlling it. Roundup really works. Spray at the right time and the quack is all gone."

Andrew faults the quick hitch on his 10 ton Huskee wagon gear ("it won't stay locked without tying down and the thing sways all over the road") and the hookup on his planting springtooth, which is designed to mount under the tractor. "It's made by Spread-All Manufacturing and does a nice job but the hookup to the tractor is too light. Welds broke and eventually it all broke loose and I drove right over the top of it. Only used it on about 40 acres. They assured me it was plenty heavy when I bought it."

Donald Burgess, Carthage, N.Y.: He thinks New Holland could make a good machine even better by putting better tires and a better hitch on the Model 479 Haybine: "The machine worked alright but everytime I wanted to use it, I would have a flat tire. They used such a cheap grade of tire. Also, the hitch was so weak it bent and folded."

Donald's new Ford 7700 tractor with cab also earned a "best buy" nomination: "I used it filling silo last fall and was very pleased with its dual power transmission for chopping. I was real pleased with quietness of the cab and visibility from the cab."

(Continued on page 30)